

Lower Great Lakes

Fishery Resources Office

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D)
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)
Rep. James T. Walsh (R-25th)
Rep. Thomas M. Reynolds (R-26th)
Rep. Brian M. Higgins (D-27th)
Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-28th)

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Purpose

The Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resources Office was established by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990 to support and encourage the restoration, protection, maintenance and enhancement of fishery resources in the lower Great Lakes.

Public Use Notes

- Fish and Wildlife Festival 2005
- Erie County Fair
- Round Goby Round-Up
- Volunteer and internship programs

Management Activities

- Lead basin-wide and local lake sturgeon restoration activities
- Investigate the Erie Canal's role in the introduction and spread of invasive species
- Provide technical assistance to states implementing lake trout restoration initiatives

- Lead management efforts for invasive Asian carp, including early detection and monitoring in Lake Erie and developing outreach initiatives for the national *Management and Control Plan for Asian Carps in the United States*
- Provide technical assistance and leadership in managing federal lands and invasive species issues

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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Lake sturgeon

USFWS

Highlights

Participated in community tree planting near a 22-acre lake in the town of Amherst, in partnership with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of America, the town of Amherst, and the Air and Waste Management Association (Niagara Frontier chapter).

Continued a program to place hatchery-raised juvenile lake sturgeon into tanks at participating schools in western New York. This initiative is designed to build awareness of sturgeon, a protected species in the Great Lakes, and to enhance environmental stewardship among students.

Conducted a monitoring program to estimate the expansion of invasive round goby in the New York State Canal System. Local community members participate in an annual fishing event and reporting program.

As part of the Great Lakes Aquatic Gap Project, used advanced geographic information system (GIS) technology to evaluate biological

diversity of aquatic habitats and identify gaps in distribution and protection status.

Issues

Lake sturgeon have declined from historic abundances. The species is listed by New York as threatened and by Pennsylvania and Ohio as endangered.

Invasive species, such as Asian carp, snakehead, round goby, zebra mussel and purple loosestrife threaten native species and their habitats.

Although lake trout restoration efforts have been ongoing since the early 1980s, lake trout natural reproduction is limited.

Contaminants, habitat degradation and invasive species impact natural reproduction of lake trout and other species.

